

require Zach to travel more than 100,000 miles, visit approximately 40 states, and participate in an international experience tour to Japan. Zach will also be responsible for providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization, and promoting agricultural literacy.

Currently, Zach attends school at the University of Missouri in Columbia. There, he is involved in many student organizations including College of Agriculture Student Development board, MU Alumni Association Student Board, Agriculture Economics Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau, College of Agriculture Learning Improvement Committee, and the Missouri Department of Education Preparatory Taskforce.

Zach has been very active as a member of FFA. Over the years, Zach has been involved he has participated in a Supervised Agricultural Experience, which required producing and selling registered Angus seed stock bulls. Zach was also selected as a state winner and national semi-finalist in prepared speaking, and was named State Star in Agricultural Placement.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zach Kinne for his accomplishments with the Future Farmers of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of President for the 2007–2008 calendar year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WILDFIRE PREVENTION ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will significantly enhance the ability of the American people to protect their homes and property from dangerous wildfires. This crucial legislation will augment our fire emergency preparedness by eliminating burdensome government rules and regulations rather than creating new ones. More and bigger government is not the solution to the challenges we face and my legislation gives the American people the opportunity to take the initiative in protecting themselves and their property.

We have all witnessed the destruction and devastation wrought by the recent fires in southern California. According to the latest reports, 518,021 acres have burned and over 3,500 structures have been damaged or destroyed. Thousands of families are now left homeless and hundreds of thousands more were forced to evacuate their homes as the fires threatened. While our brave first responders performed as outstandingly in this crisis as we have come to expect, these events have made it increasingly clear that our government has not been providing citizens with the tools necessary to protect themselves and has relied excessively on a large and unresponsive bureaucracy.

I am sad to report that current laws and regulations make it difficult, if not altogether impossible, for private property owners to clear brush and create fire breaks that might save their homes in the event of a wildfire. Intrusive federal regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act, discourage, and in some cases

prohibit, property owners from modifying their property to better prepare for wildfires. Our misguided policies have placed special interests above the all-important right and obligation of homeowners and property owners to prepare themselves for natural disasters. We know intrusive and bloated government is always a problem, but in a fire emergency, it can be deadly and destructive.

My legislation, the Wildfire Prevention Act, works by empowering citizens rather than bureaucrats. The Wildfire Prevention Act makes it clear that no Federal law will prevent private property owners, or local communities that manage public land, from clearing brush or making other modifications to their property for the purpose of creating fire breaks in order to protect their lives and their property.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a step in the right direction in providing property owners with the resources they need to protect themselves. I am proud to introduce the Wildfire Prevention Act and request my colleagues give this important legislation their utmost consideration.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF NON QUINCY ADAMS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend. I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to memory of Mr. Non Quincy Adams.

A native and resident of Mobile, Mr. Adams graduated from Murphy High School and attended Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific theater of operation aboard the USS George Clymer and attained the rank of lieutenant junior grade.

After the war, he received degrees in business and law from the University of Alabama. Starting his career as a teenager with First National Bank in 1940, he returned to Mobile after college to practice law. Over the years, he held positions in the trust and commercial areas. During the 1970s, Mr. Adams rose through the ranks to become a member of the board of directors. Later, he became president and in just 4 years, chief executive in 1982. After the bank merged with AmSouth Bank, he was named chairman of AmSouth's Southern region.

In 1974, he was elected to the board of directors of Loyal American Life Insurance Co., and he later became the chairman and chief executive officer of the Modern Banking Association of Alabama. In 1988, Mr. Adams ran for a seat on the Mobile County school board and served a term as the District 2 commissioner. He also served as a director of both the Industrial Development Board of the city of Mobile and the Business Council of Alabama.

Along with his business associations, Mr. Adams served as director of the Mobile Area Council of Boy Scouts and was a trustee of the YMCA. He also served as the director of the Exploremore and was chairman of the Keep Mobile Beautiful Commission. During the 1980s, he was significantly involved with the tree preservation, beautification and revitaliza-

tion of Bienville Square. Mr. Adams was a deacon and lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Mobile. In 1990, he was bestowed the honor of Mobilian of the Year.

There is no doubt—Mr. N. Q. Adams' contributions to Mobile and the state of Alabama will be long remembered. He loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife of 54 years, Eran Jobe Adams; his sister, Dora Lee Davidson; his son, Samuel Russell Adams; his daughter, Laura Aline Adams; his granddaughter; and his great-grandson; as well as countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers go with them all in this difficult time.

HONORING LARRY MCCARTHY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Californian. Larry McCarthy has served as president of the California Taxpayers' Association since 1989, building the association into a powerful force for the taxpayers of the Golden State, and conducting detailed policy research that has helped shaped the laws of my great State.

Larry McCarthy has advocated on behalf of taxpaying residents and entrepreneurs as president of the California Tax Foundation and as chairman of the National Taxpayers Conference, a nationwide organization of state taxpayer associations. Larry also was the lead advocate and strategist for two \$300 million unemployment insurance tax reductions in the early 1980s and a complete refinance of the California unemployment insurance system in 1985. Larry also played a major role in strengthening the economy, helping businesses prosper and creating new employment opportunities for Californians.

As research director of Cal-Tax, he supervised extensive research projects on local government finance in California, winning a national award for research on the use of benefit assessments in California after passage of Proposition 13. Early in his career in California and in Washington State, Larry McCarthy authored publications called Citizens Guide to Local Government Budgeting to help individuals become involved in the complicated budget processes of cities, counties and school districts.

Larry's success as the leader of Cal-Tax is reflected by the dedication and devotion of his staff, the majority of whom have served with him for more than 20 years. He has also distinguished himself as a strong family man, dedicated to his wife, Sandy, and their three children, Steven, Michelle and Christine.

Madam Speaker, Larry McCarthy is fighting valiantly against cancer, maintaining his sense of humor and drawing upon his strong faith in God to battle the disease. The people of California have been blessed to have Larry McCarthy on their side; we salute him for his dedication to improving California and our Nation, and for his achievements on behalf of the hard-working taxpayers of California.

Madam Speaker, I hope you will join me in extending heartfelt thanks to Larry McCarthy for his tremendous contributions to our State and wish him strength during this difficult time.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my dear friend, Mr. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois, for organizing this special order on the very important subject addressing the prison warehousing crisis in this country. H.R. 1593, The Second Chance Act, a bill of which I am an original co-sponsor, addresses the very serious concerns about the compromised state of warehousing prisoners.

Earlier this year the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, of which I am a member, held hearings to address the state of certain conditions within the United States prison system. In one of those hearings, my colleagues and I considered the merits of The Second Chance Act, and my amendment which I offered in the last Congress was included in the base bill this year.

The Second Chance Act is designed to reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and help state and local governments better address the growing population of ex-offenders returning their communities. The bill focuses on four areas: development and support of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, expansion of the availability of substance abuse treatment, strengthening families and the expansion of comprehensive re-entry services. The Subcommittee has held a series of hearings on issues relating to re-entry of prisoners and this legislation dating back to the 108th Congress. Our most recent hearing, on March 20, 2007, focused on re-entry best practices and the continuing need for Federal support of re-entry program development.

Nearly two-thirds of released state prisoners are expected to be re-arrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor within 3 years of their release. Such high recidivism rates translate into thousands of new crimes each year and wasted taxpayer dollars, which can be averted through improved prisoner reentry efforts.

The "Second Chance Act of 2007" allocates \$360 million towards a variety of reentry programs. One of the main components of the bill is the funding of demonstration projects that would provide ex-offenders with a coordinated continuum of housing, education, health, employment, and mentoring services. This broad array of services would provide stability and make the transition for ex-offenders easier, in turn reducing recidivism.

Another reason why I strongly support this legislation is because it includes a provision contained in an amendment I offered during the Judiciary Committee markup of this bill in the 109th Congress. That amendment, incorporated in H.R. 1593 as Section 243 of the bill, requires that the:

Attorney General shall collect data and develop best practices of State corrections departments and child protection agencies relating to the communication and coordination between such State departments and

agencies to ensure the safety and support of children of incarcerated parents (including those in foster care and kinship care), and the support of parent-child relationships between incarcerated (and formerly incarcerated) parents and their children, as appropriate to the health and well-being of the children.

I also sponsored H.R. 261, the Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act of 2007 which I introduced earlier this year. H.R. 261 directs the Bureau of Prisons, pursuant to a good time policy, to release a prisoner who has served one half or more of his or her term of imprisonment if that prisoner: (1) Has attained age 45; (2) has never been convicted of a crime of violence; and (3) has not engaged in any violation, involving violent conduct, of institutional disciplinary regulations.

H.R. 261, would address the problem of warehousing in the Nation's Federal correction facilities non-violent offenders over the age of 45 who have served more than half of their sentences and pose no future danger to society. As I stated during the markup of H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007, I strongly believe that in affording older offenders a second chance to turn around their lives and contribute to society, that ex-offenders not be too old to take full advantage of a second chance to redeem themselves in the eyes of their families, friends, and communities. I believe setting an eligibility age of 45 rather than 60 will better achieve the goal we all share.

I am also concerned about the rehabilitation and treatment of juvenile offenders in my home state of Texas as it appears that the administrators of TYC have neglected their duties. The April 10, 2007 "Dallas Morning News", reported that "two former Texas Youth Commission administrators were indicted on charges that they sexually abused teenage inmates at the state juvenile prison in Pyote". The same article also cited the 2005 investigative report by Texas Rangers' Sgt. Burzynski which found that the two indicted TYC administrators, Brookins and Hernandez, had repeatedly molested inmates in the Pyote prison. The report is cited as saying that Mr. Brookins, who during some periods was the top official, had shown sex toys and pornography in his office, while Mr. Hernandez molested inmates in classrooms and closets.

I hope that all of my colleagues would join me in supporting the Second Chance Act as well as my bill H.R. 261, the Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act of 2007. It is time to make a change.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed rollcall votes Nos. 1034, 1035, and 1036 on November 5, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 1034: "yes"; rollcall No. 1035: "yes"; rollcall No. 1036: "yes."

RECOGNIZING CAROL GORDY ON THE COMPLETION OF A SUCCESSFUL YEAR AS 2007 BCA CHAIRMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol Gordy as she completes a highly successful term as the 2007 chairman of the Business Council of Alabama (BCA).

Carol has been a distinguished member of the Brewton, Alabama, business community for almost three decades. In 1990, she purchased Natural Decorations Inc., known as NDI, from its original founders. Since that time, Carol and her husband, Joe, have grown the company from 10 to 100 employees and increased sales from less than \$1 million to more than \$16 million a year.

NDI is located in a small town in Alabama; nevertheless, it is a world-class leading manufacturer of high-end floral and botanical reproductions. Counted among its customers are Neiman-Marcus, Horchow, and interior designers worldwide, with ads appearing regularly in magazines such as Architectural Digest, Veranda, and Traditional Home. NDI also has exclusive licensing agreements with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the Versailles Foundation for Monet's Giverney Gardens.

Under Carol Gordy's leadership as both chairman and chief executive officer, NDI has been nominated for 10 ARTS Awards, the premier awards program for the home decorative accessories industry, and received six. In 2001, NDI was inducted into the ARTS Hall of Fame. Additionally, NDI has been recognized for outstanding achievements in workplace safety.

It is this commitment to excellence in her own business that has made Carol such a valuable asset to BCA. In 2005, BCA leaders recognized her dedication to the association and asked her to join other volunteer leaders to serve as the group's first vice-chairman, a position that put Carol in line to be the first woman in BCA's history to serve as chairman.

A native of Dublin, Texas, Carol was raised in New Mexico. She started her first of three retail flower shops in Albuquerque and was the first person from New Mexico ever to be inducted into the American Institute of Floral Design in Washington, DC in 1980.

Carol's commitment to her community is second to none. She currently serves on the boards of A+ Education Foundation, BankTrust, Alabama Technology Network, Rotary International, the Quality of Life Chair for Alabama Communities of Excellence, and the Accessory Division of International Home Furnishings Center, High Point, NC.

Carol is a member of the Governor's Commission on Quality Teaching and has served on the Governor's Commission on Efficiency, Consolidation and Funding. She was a member of Leadership Alabama Class XXIII and served as a judge for the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. She is also a member of Voices for Alabama's Children.

Madam Speaker, there are few individuals more dedicated or more committed to helping their communities than Carol Gordy, and I